

whether it would sell the site of the disused battery on the Bayle at Folkestone for the jubilee hospital, said the matter was not yet decided; if sold it would be sold by auction.

British Medical Practitioners in Switzerland.—In the unavoidable absence of Dr. FARQUHARSON, Mr. CAUSTON asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had any further information to give the House as to the result of the negotiations he had been carrying on with the Swiss Government regarding the rights of English doctors to practise in that country.—Sir J. FERGUSSON said he was glad to say that matters had assumed a more hopeful appearance. There was reason to expect that temporary measures would be adopted by certain cantonal authorities by which British physicians would be enabled to practise, and he hoped that a permanent and reciprocal arrangement might be arrived at.—Mr. CAUSTON asked whether it was probable that the more favourable arrangements would apply to the whole of Switzerland.—Sir J. FERGUSSON said there were considerable difficulties in the way, but no possible effort would be spared to procure such a satisfactory arrangement.

OBITUARY.

THOMAS HARRINGTON TUKE, M.D., F.R.C.P., ETC.

THOMAS HARRINGTON TUKE, whose death we announced last week, was the son of Edward Francis Tuke, M.D., of Bristol, whose professional life was devoted to the treatment of lunacy. He was born on June 13th, 1826. He studied medicine at St. George's Hospital and at Edinburgh, and also visited Paris, becoming Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1847, M.D. of St. Andrews in 1849, and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1858. He was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London, in 1878.

Dr. Tuke has throughout his career been identified with the treatment of insanity. In 1846 he took charge of the Manor House, Chiswick, founded by his father, and by successive enlargements and alterations much improved it, adding nearly eighteen acres to the original grounds.

In January, 1852, he married Sophia Jane, second daughter of Dr. John Conolly, of The Lawn, Hanwell, his distinguished teacher and kind friend. His professional career was in every way a highly successful one, his practice being large both as a consulting physician and at Manor House, which became well known as one of the leading private asylums in this country, and always maintained a very high reputation. Active, public-spirited, and full of interest in professional and public questions, Dr. Tuke took a leading part in the organisation and scientific progress of his department of medicine. He was a member of many foreign societies, and was for several years secretary of the Medico-Psychological Society. He was a prominent witness before the Select Committees of the House of Commons on amendment of the Lunacy Law. He was the author of several papers on general paralysis and on criminal responsibility, and otherwise a frequent contributor to the *Journal of Mental Science*, as well as to the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, in which his last contribution was published, being a very interesting paper on the trial of the Rev. Gilbert Cooper, and the question of criminal responsibility involved therein (*JOURNAL*, November 26th, 1887; January 14th, 1888).

He took a prominent part in most of the *causes célèbres* in lunacy which have been tried during the last thirty years, especially in the Windham case, the case of Lady Mordaunt, the Bravo, the Townley, and the O'Connor cases. In the last case, it will be especially remembered that his foresight and prudent warnings after the release of this boy from prison put the authorities on their guard against a probable renewal of his insane wanderings to Buckingham Palace, and brought to Dr. Tuke the honour of a letter of thanks from the Home Secretary for the public service which he had rendered. Dr. Tuke was the first to introduce nasal feeding of the insane. His contributions to the literature of psychology and his general attitude in courts of law and in communications with leading officials before the committees of the House of Commons were always of a kind honourable to himself and his profession, humane in the protection which they suggested to the insane, and calculated to bring the law into better accord with the advancing knowledge of psychological physicians.

In private life his marked amiability of character, gentleness,

and generosity secured for him the affection of a wide circle of friends. In the board-room of St. George's and at the hospital he was always a welcome figure. His annual reunions of the old students and staff of the hospital on the eve of the opening of each successive session had become a sort of social institution, and afforded an annual meeting-ground for old friends and early associates, of which a large number of old St. George's men did not fail annually to avail themselves. His death leaves a void which will not easily be filled, and he will long be mourned by a large circle of professional friends, to whom throughout life he had greatly endeared himself. Few men have made so many friends in the course of a long professional life, and it may be said of him that, having made many friends, he never lost them.

He was buried at Chiswick on June 13th. His health had been failing for some weeks before his death, which was due to pulmonary disease. His end was quiet and peaceful. He leaves seven sons—two of whom follow in the same department in the medical profession—and a daughter.

MISS ALICE FISHER.

MANY members of the profession will have heard with deep regret of the death of Miss Alice Fisher, which occurred on June 3rd, at the Philadelphia Hospital, U.S.A., of which institution she had been for nearly four years Lady Superintendent of Nurses.

Miss Fisher entered the Nightingale Home, St. Thomas's Hospital, as a probationer, in January, 1875, and after a year's training was sent as home sister to take temporary charge of the nurses at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

In the following year Miss Fisher was appointed matron of the Fever Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and held that post until her election in 1878 as matron of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. There she remained four years, during which time the nursing of the hospital was completely remodelled, a training school established, and nurses supplied to the members of the University and residents in the town. The advantages, alike to the hospital, the nurses, and the public which followed the adoption of the latter plan, were so great that it has been indirectly the cause of the foundation of institutes for the supply of nurses to the public in connection with many of the metropolitan hospitals.

Feeling that her special work at Addenbrooke's was done, and that the system which she had introduced could well be carried on by others, Miss Fisher accepted an invitation from the governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary, at Oxford, and subsequently another from the committee of the Birmingham General Hospital, to take charge of the nursing departments there.

At both places the same untiring energy, which was one of her chief characteristics, led to important improvements being effected in the system of nursing.

In October, 1884, Miss Fisher left England to undertake the duties of superintendent of nurses at the Philadelphia Hospital. In America, owing to the greater publicity of official life in any sphere, Miss Fisher's work soon attracted general attention. This was at first due to her calmness and heroism in saving the lives of many of the inmates of the lunatic wing of the hospital during a fire which occurred shortly after her arrival there.

Subsequently she succeeded, as she had previously done at Cambridge, in interesting all classes in the work of the hospital, which became almost a popular resort with the ladies of Philadelphia, who attended her lectures on nursing in large numbers. In the few years she was there a large training-school for nurses sprang up, and an impetus was given to the improvement of nursing which has been felt almost throughout the United States. The American papers were enthusiastic in her praise, and she received applications from all parts for admission to the nursing home.

In the midst of her work she has been cut off by death, due to an affection of the heart which had troubled her for some time, and for which, as one of her physicians said, "she had worn out all power of compensation by overwork." Her interest in the hospital was maintained to the last, and when too ill to walk, she was wheeled through the wards in a Bath chair.

Miss Fisher was in many respects a remarkable woman; of commanding presence, sympathetic in manner, widely read, especially in the best English literature, and herself the author of several works of fiction showing much insight into human motives. She exercised a great influence for good over all with whom she was brought into contact. As a hospital administrator she had few equals, and every institution with which she was connected still

bears evidence of her work. One of her fellow-workers writes, "she was the brightest, most energetic, most fascinating woman I ever met, and at Addenbrooke's, with Miss Fisher as matron, my happiest nursing days were spent."

It is proposed to raise some memorial to her in connection with one of the hospitals with which her name is associated.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE MASTERSHIP OF DOWNING.—The election of Dr. Alexander Hill to the mastership of Downing College may be taken as a sign of the progress of medical and scientific studies in the University. Dr. Hill is probably the youngest, both as regards actual age and university standing, who has ever been elected to a mastership, and the College recognise by their action not only his high personal qualities, but also the important part the Faculty is likely to play in the future of the University and of their own body. As Demonstrator of Anatomy under Professor Humphry and Professor Macalister, Dr. Hill has rendered excellent service to the medical school, and his work on the nervous system, carried out in connection with the Hunterian Professorship of the Royal College of Surgeons, is well-known to specialists. He graduated B.A. in the natural science tripos of 1877, gaining distinguished honours in botany, zoology, human anatomy, and physiology; and, after obtaining the preliminary scientific exhibition at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, studied medicine there and at Cambridge, and took the degree of M.B. in 1882, and in 1885, he was elected a Fellow of Downing, and became a Doctor of Medicine. His graduation thesis on the *Plan of the Central Nervous System* has since been published. For several years he has, as a recognised teacher of physiology, given courses on the nervous system, and on general physiology, and during the ensuing long vacation his annual course on histology for medical students is again announced. Though Dr. Hill will probably now retire from the arduous duties of his demonstratorship, it is understood that he will continue to lecture on certain points of advanced human morphology, in which he takes an active interest. There is no doubt of his popularity among his pupils and colleagues, and the election has been hailed with great satisfaction, especially by the junior members of the University.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.—The following awards to students of natural science and medicine were made at the annual election on June 18th. Foundation Scholarship continued or augmented:—Seward, Shore, Rolleston, Rendle, Turpin, Groom, D'Albuquerque. Foundation Scholarships awarded:—Hankin, Horton-Smith, Locke, Baily, Simpson. Exhibitions:—D'Albuquerque, Hankin, Horton-Smith, Blackman, Schmitz. Wright's Prizes:—Simpson, Hankin, Blackman. Mr. G. S. Turpin gained the Hutchinson Studentship of £60 for two years to enable him to pursue researches in organic chemistry under Professor von Hofmann, of Berlin.

THE UNIVERSITY suffers a heavy loss in the promotion of Dr. Vines, Reader in Botany, to the Sherardian Professorship at Oxford. Dr. Vines has taken part in the conduct of the classes in Elementary Biology for medical students ever since they were established.

MR. E. G. BROWNE, M.A., M.B., of Pembroke College, has been appointed University Lecturer in Persian for five years from Michaelmas, 1888. Mr. Browne is a Fellow of his College, and was placed in the First Class of the Indian Languages Tripos in 1884.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL FORSTER has been appointed the representative of the University on the Council of the Marine Biological Association.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.—In the twenty-eight large English towns, including London, which have an estimated population of 9,398,273 persons, 5,461 births and 2,923 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday, June 16th. The annual rate of mortality, which had steadily declined in

four preceding weeks from 18.9 to 16.2 per 1,000, was again 16.2 during the week under notice. The rates in the several towns ranged from 9.9 in Birkenhead, 10.3 in Derby, 10.7 in Leicester, and 12.1 in Plymouth to 23.4 in Halifax, 23.7 in Preston, 24.6 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and 27.9 in Manchester. In the twenty-seven provincial towns the mean death-rate was 17.9 per 1,000, and exceeded by as much as 3.7 the rate recorded in London, which was only 14.2 per 1,000, and lower than in any week since September, 1885. The 2,923 deaths registered during the week under notice in the twenty-eight towns included 89 which were referred to whooping-cough, 45 to diarrhoea, 38 to scarlet fever, 30 to measles, 25 to diphtheria, 19 to "fever" (principally enteric), and 13 to small-pox; in all, 259 deaths resulted from these principal zymotic diseases, against numbers declining from 330 to 265 in the four preceding weeks. These 259 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 1.4 per 1,000; in London the zymotic rate was 1.4, and corresponded with the mean rate in the twenty-seven provincial towns, among which the zymotic death-rates ranged from 0.4 in Brighton and in Sunderland to 2.9 in Cardiff, 4.0 in Blackburn, and 4.1 in Manchester. Whooping-cough caused the highest proportional fatality in Cardiff, Blackburn, and Manchester; measles in Bradford; and scarlet fever in Cardiff. Of the 25 deaths from diphtheria recorded during the week under notice in the twenty-eight towns, 18 occurred in London, 2 in Liverpool, and 2 in Manchester. The 13 fatal cases of small-pox included 6 in Preston, 2 in Sheffield, 2 in Hull, 1 in Leeds, 1 in Manchester, and 1 in Bristol. There were no small-pox patients under treatment in any of the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals on Saturday, June 16th. These hospitals contained 830 scarlet fever patients on the same date, showing a further decline from recent weekly numbers; 61 cases were admitted during the week, against 66, 78, and 89 in the three preceding weeks. The death-rate from diseases of the respiratory organs in London was equal to 2.6 per 1,000, and was slightly below the average.

BURIAL REFORM.

At a meeting of the Glasgow Committee on Health, on June 4th, the following letter from Dr. J. B. Russell, on the subject of burial reform, was read:—"I have considered Mr. Fatlock's letter regarding the disposal of the dead, remitted to me to advise upon. No one can deny the enormous abuses of earth-burial by violation of all the laws and conditions which would render it a safe method of disposing of the dead. Mr. Fatlock rests his case in favour of rapid dissolution of the body by caustic alkalies placed in the coffin, upon their certain destruction of all disease-producing organisms. The tendency of experiment has been to show that acids or acid salts, and not alkalies, are the most trustworthy disinfectants, and in the present state of my information I have at least as much faith in the destruction of disease germs by decomposition in porous earth as by caustic alkalies. Cremation is theoretically perfect for all purposes, but, as Mr. Fatlock says, sentiment is against it. The same obstacle will oppose the use of alkalies, and only education will remove this obstacle. I do not think we are yet at that stage of public opinion when it would be advisable to promote legislation for any other purpose than the proper regulation of earth burial."

PROVISION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN LIVERPOOL.

THE LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL may be congratulated on having solved the problem of providing hospital accommodation for infectious diseases. It is stated that the hospital in Netherfield Road, together with the one nearly finished in Grafton Street, will suffice for the wants of the city at ordinary times, and when to these are added the temporary buildings on the Parkhill Estate, the provision will be largely in excess of what has been needed at any time during the last three years. To meet the possibility of an epidemic breaking out it has been decided to reserve a portion of the Edge Lane Hall Estate, on which extensive temporary buildings, similar to those in use at Parkhill, could be erected at little expense and in a short time, while the existing Hall would be utilized for the administrative department and the resident staff. The hospital at Parkhill, on the model of which the buildings will be designed, was erected about three years ago, and has proved eminently successful both in point of durability and sanitation. It is much to be desired that the poor were made more fully aware of the advantages of hospitals of this class, as there is no doubt that diseases such as measles and whooping-cough, occurring in crowded neighbourhoods, cannot receive proper attention at home, and consequently often prove fatal or lead to permanent